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BANGALORE THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1928.

PART I.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT.

Maddagiri into "Madhugiri."

Letter No. C. 3063—27-28, dated 30th January 1928, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, submitting for sanction a copy of the resolution passed by the Council of the Maddagiri Town Municipality on 31st October 1927 in the matter of the change of the name of Maddagiri Town to "Madhugiri."

ORDER No. R. 7129-38—R. M. 51-27-2, DATED 14TH MARCH 1928.

The recommendation to change the name Maddagiri to "Madhugiri" is sanctioned.

A notification to the above effect, will be issued separately.

N. MADHAVA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Earth Salt.

Notification No. 113, dated the 15th July 1881, issuing rules in regard to the manufacture and export of earth salt in Mysore.

2. Proceedings No. 3276-83—Cir. 51, dated the 17th June 1891, directing that where there are more applications than one for a license for the same salt pan or set of pans, a system of tenders should be adopted and the one most advantageous to Government accepted.

3. Letter No. C. 3511—24-25, dated the 20th—21st May 1925, from the Revenue Commissioner, forwarding his opinion on the subject of the removal of duty on salt pans.

4. Letter No. D2 235—27-28, dated the 5th January 1928, from the Director of Industries and Commerce, submitting proposals as to the measures to be adopted for the revival of the earth salt Industry in the State.

5. Un-official Note No. Dl Dis. 775—27-28, dated 4th February 1928, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, on the same subject.

ORDER No. R. 7190-200—L. R. 398-27-3, DATED 16TH MARCH 1928.

By the notification dated the 15th July 1881 read above, the manufacture of earth salt in the State was prohibited within 5 miles of British Territories and the system of farming out the right to manufacture earth salt was abolished. It was also directed that licenses should only be issued for existing pans or those which might be opened in substitution of others abandoned.

2. Partly as a result of these restrictions, but mostly owing to the operation of economic causes, the earth salt industry has greatly declined in recent years. The number of pans under working which stood at 2,812 in the year 1880-81 was reduced to 481 in 1924-25, and the revenue from this source has shown a corresponding decline.

3. It has been represented to Government that by offering more liberal terms to the licensees of pans, some encouragement might be afforded to the industry in parts of the State, where it once served as a remunerative subsidiary occupation to the people. The question has been examined by the Director of Industries and Commerce who has made the following proposals:—

(*a*) The removal of the restriction on the working of the pans within five miles of the British border.

(*b*) Recognition of the occupancy rights of existing holders in the pans now at work, and the levy of a graduated rental not exceeding Rs. 5 per pan, the same being fixed for a period of 30 years.

(*c*) Grant of takavi loans to salt pan holders on the security of their pans, to enable them to purchase buffaloes for working them.

4. The Revenue Commissioner who was consulted on the above proposals, is of opinion that the proprietary rights in the pans cannot be conceded to private individuals, as the salt pans, wherever situate, are the property of Government, and that if the ownership is conceded, even the present extent of production is likely to decrease. He therefore suggests the adoption of a rule to the effect that in considering applications for working existing pans, the application of the person who worked it in the previous year should be given preference, and a license should be given to a fresh person only if the previous licensee does not want it. He recommends also that while retaining the present minimum of Rs. 3, a maximum royalty of Rs. 10 per pan may be fixed, with reference to the production of each pan. Takavi loans may also be granted for working salt pans, but only on furnishing collateral security so as to ensure the return of the loans.

5. After considering the various proposals summarised above, Government are pleased to order as follows:—

(*a*) The maximum should be fixed at Rs. 5 per annum, the minimum remaining the same as at present.

(*b*) Leases for working salt pans should be granted annually for reasons given by the Revenue Commissioner as noted above; but the licenses should be reopened from year to year so long as the work is satisfactory.

(*c*) Takavi loans may also be granted to the license holders, to enable them to work the pans, provided suitable collateral security, other than the pan, is furnished.

6. In regard to the proposal to remove the prohibition on the manufacture of earth salt within five miles of the British border, Government wish to point out that this is a matter of treaty obligation, with which no interference is possible. The rules contained in the Notification No. 113, dated the 15th July 1881, should therefore be strictly carried out.

But it is hoped that the other concessions now offered will have the result of bringing back into use some of the abandoned salt pans, and the Revenue Commissioner is requested to give wide publicity to the concessions in Taluks where revival of the industry may be reasonably expected.

N. MADHAVA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.